

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /087 W

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O R 121135Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8608

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S

REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL WIVES

REF: STATE 48943

1. SUMMARY: THREE OF FOUR QUALITY DAILIES CARRY STORIES TODAY (MARCH 12) BY THEIR OWN CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON REPORTING SECRETARY'S REMARKS. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET. END SUMMARY

2. "TIMES" CARRIES STORY BY FRED EMERY ON PAGE FOUR CAPTIONED: "DR. KISSINGER SAYS THE BIGGEST US PROBLEM IS DEALING WITH ITS ALLIES." EMERY WRITES THAT DR. KISSINGER "APPARENTLY INADVERTENTLY, BROUGHT HIS BITTER QUARREL WITH EUROPE OUT INTO THE OPEN. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE US HAD ITS BIGGEST PROBLEM DEALING WITH ITS FRIENDS; NOT ITS ENEMIES. WITH UNINTENDED IRONY, HE SHOWED WHY, IN REMARKS OF A BRUTAL FRANKNESS RARELY

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HEARD FROM AN INCUMBENT SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. "DR. KISSINGER LAMENTED THAT SINCE THE FIRST WORLD WAR EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAD NEVER REGAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF THEIR PEOPLE. INDEED, HE WONDERED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY 'REALLY LEGITIMATE' GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE SINCE THAT CATASTROPHE. HE AGAIN GAVE WARNING, IN THE TERMS HE HAS CHOSEN BEFORE TO KEEP PRIVATE, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD 'WIN' ANY COMPETITION FORCED UPON IT BY ITS ALLIES."

4. EMERY ASSERTS THAT THE EFFECT OF THESE REMARKS WAS "TO EXPLODE THE MUTUAL OFFICIAL REASSURANCES BEING EXCHANGED" BETWEEN CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND PRESIDENT NIXON. EMERY GOES ON TO QUOTE LENGTHY EXTRACTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, REPORTS THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, AND CONCLUDES THAT "THIS DISCLAIMER NOTWITHSTANDING, THESE WOULD SEEM TO BE THE HARSHTEST PUBLIC COMMENTS THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS MADE SINCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE LAST SEPTEMBER."

5. THE "GUARDIAN" CARRIES STORY BY HELLA PICK ON PAGE FOUR CAPTIONED: "KISSINGER INVEIGHS AGAINST EUROPEAN 'SELF-ASSERTIVENESS'". STORY OPENS WITH ASSERTION THAT DR. KISSINGER "HAS ACCUSED WESTERN EUROPE OF BEING MORE DIFFICULT THAN AMERICAN ENEMIES IN A DEEPLY HURTFUL ATTACK ON THE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES."

6. FURTHER ON, MISS PICK REPORTS THAT SECRETARY "ALSO VAUNTED AMERICA'S SUPERIOR STRENGTH AND ASSERTED THAT 'WE ARE GOING TO WIN THE COMPETITION IF IT TAKES PLACE, BECAUSE WE HAVE MORE RESOURCES.' BUT HE HAD THE GRACE TO ADD: 'IT IS NOT A VICTORY WORTH ACHIEVING, IT CAN ONLY BE HAD AT THE COST OF SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.'"

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7. MISS PICK DECLARES: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT DR. KISSINGER NOW VIEWS THE EEC WITH UNABATED ANGER" AND SHE REPEATS ASSERTION REPORTED YESTERDAY (LONDON 3043) THAT US "IS VERY LIKELY TO CALL OFF THE WORK FOR A COMMON DECLARATION AND POSSIBLY TO STOP DEALING WITH THE COMMUNITY AS A POLITICAL ENTITY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING."

8. MISS PICK ALSO REPORTS THAT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SECRETARY SAID HE OBJECTED TO EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE "IF IT TAKES THE FORM OF BECOMING ORGANICALLY SEPARATED FROM THE UNITED STATES." MISS PICK CONCLUDES HER ARTICLE BY SAYING, "THE AMERICANS MAY THINK THAT THIS IS MILD STUFF. BUT DR. KISSINGER MAY FIND THAT EUROPEANS WILL INTERPRET IT RATHER DIFFERENTLY."

9. "FINANCIAL TIMES" CARRIES SHORTER ARTICLE BY PAUL LEWIS ON PAGE SIX CAPTIONED: "KISSINGER AGAIN LEAPS TO ATTACK." ARTICLE OPENS: "DR. KISSINGER SHARPLY ATTACKED THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES AGAIN TODAY FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE OIL CRISIS, WARNING THAT THEY NOW POSED THE US WITH A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN ITS COMMUNIST ENEMIES." LEWIS GOES ON TO PARAPHRASE ESSENCE OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS, BUT WITHOUT ANY INTERPRETIVE EMBELLISHMENTS SUCH AS THOSE PROVIDED BY FRED EMERY AND HELLA PICK.

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